

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 IO-03 PM-03 SP-02 DODE-00 SCCT-01 OMB-01

PRS-01 /047 W

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R 250830Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 453

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2260

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ET

SUBJECT: ELF/PLF UNIFICATION AGREEMENT

REF: KHARTOUM 2206

BEGIN SUMMARY: ELF/PLF "UNIFICATION AGREEMENT" REACHED AT RECENT KHARTOUM MEETING CALLS FOR ERITREAN INDPENDENCE AND PROJECTS THE CONVENING OF A "UNIFICATION CONFERENCE" SOME EIGHT MONTHS FROM NOW. LANGUAGE OF AGREEMENT WOULD APPEAR SUBSTANTIATE EARLIER INDICATIONS THAT TWO GROUPS UNABLE TO AGREE ON ANYTHING BUT BROADEST AIMS. END SUMMARY.

1. HAVE RECEIVED FROM RELIABLE DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUE AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE "UNIFICATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT AND THE PEOPLES' LIBERATION FORCES" CONCLUDED AT THE SEPTEMBER 2-6, 1975 MEETING OF THE  
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TWO GROUPS' CIVILIAN HIERARCHIES IN KHARTOUM. ACTUALLY,

DOCUMENT IS MORE OF A JOINT UNDERSTANDING TO REACH AGREEMENT.

2. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS:

A. ELF AND PLS AGREE THAT COMMON GOAL IS "FULL NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE IN ERITREA;"

B. WITH AIM OF CREATING A SINGLE ORGANIZATION WITH ONE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND ONE LIBERATION ARMY, THERE WILL BE CONVENED A "UNIFICATION CONFERENCE OF THE ERITREAN REVOLUTION;"

C. THIS CONFERENCE WILL BE PRECEDED BY THE CREATION OF A PREPARATORY COMMITTEE, WHICH WILL BEGIN WORK TWO MONTHS AFTER THE (PRESENT) AGREEMENT IS "ANNOUNCED," TO BE FOLLOWED WITHIN SIX MONTHS BY THE UNIFICATION CONFERENCE;

D. TO GATHER AND DISTRIBUTE HUMANITARIAN AID, THERE WILL BE ESTABLISHED A SINGLE "ERITREAN RELIEF COMMITTEE" WITH HEADQUARTERS IN THE SUDAN AND OFFICES IN BEIRUT AND GENEVA.

3. AGREEMENT SIGNED BY THE PLF AND ELF LEADERS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER AND WITH THE TITLES GIVEN (IN TRANSLATION):

A. FOR THE PLF: (1) WOLDEAB WOLDE MARIAM, HEAD OF FOREIGN MISSION; (2) OSMAN SALIH SABBE, SECRETARY OF FOREIGN MISSION; (3) MOHAMMED SAEED NAWID, MEMBER OF FOREIGN MISSION AND CHIEF OF INFORMATION; (4) OMER MOHAMMED EL-BORG, MEMBER OF FOREIGN MISSION AND REPRESENTATIVE IN LIBYA; AND (5) TAHA MOHAMMED NUR, MEMBER OF FOREIGN MISSION AND REPRESENTATIVE IN CAIRO.

B. FOR THE ELF: (1) AHMED MOHAMMED NASIR, PRESIDENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE; (2) IBRAHIM TOTIL, DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CHIEF OF POLITICAL AND ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS; (3) EL-ZEIN YASSIM, CHIEF OF FOREIGN RELATIONS AND MEMBER OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL; CONFIDENTIAL

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(4) MALAAKI TAKHLE, CHIEF OF SECURITY AND MEMBER OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL; (5) MOHAMMED IBRAHIM IDRIS, MEMBER OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND REPRESENTATIVE IN DAMASCUS; AND (6) GERMAI GOSHI, MEMBER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, OFFICE OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS.

4. OTHERWISE, THE DOCUMENT IS LONG ON UNDERTAKINGS TO FORM COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES AND SHORT ON SUBSTANTIVE

AGREEMENT. TYPICAL OF THE CLEARLY APPARENT NEED TO DEFER ACTION IS THE PROCLAMATION OF BOTH PARTIES THAT, "IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO THE RATIOS OF REPRESENTATION OF EACH SIDE IN THE CONFERENCE, (AND) IN VIEW OF THE RELEVANCE OF THIS MATTER TO THE SUCCESS OF THE CONFERENCE, IT IS DECIDED, AFTER CAREFULL STUDY, THAT THE LEADERSHIPS OF THE TWO SIDES SHALL FIX THESE RATIOS IN A JOINT MEETING."

5. WE ALSO HAVE ARABIC TEXT OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE PRODUCED AT END OF MEETING SEPT. 6 (BUT NOT YET ISSUED AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE) AND WILL TRANSMIT IT AND ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF "UNIFICATION AGREEMENT" BY NEXT CLASSIFIED POUCH SEPT 29. (WE ARE ATTEMPTING GET TRANSLATION OF COMMUNIQUE BUT SENSITIVITY RULES OUT MOST AVAILABLE TRANSLATORS.)

6. COMMENT: FIRSTLY, OUR POSSESSION OF THESE DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE HELD CLOSELY. SECONDLY, WE ASSUME SUDANESE CONFIDENT THAT ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT WILL NOT OBJECT STRENUOUSLY TO LOCATION OF "ERITREAN RELIEF COMMITTEE" IN SUDAN, AND THIRDLY, WHILE OTHERS BETTER PLACED TO COMMENT ON SUBSTANCE OF DOCUMENTS, IT WOULD SEEM SAFE TO SAY THAT UNIFICATION IS NOT JUST AROUND THE CORNER. ALSO APPARENT THAT GOS HAS ACCENTUATED THE POSITIVE IN ITS REPORTS RE MEETING TO ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR HERE (KHARTOUM 2206).  
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